# CD – Military Academy CP

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#### Counterplan: The United States Federal Government will abolish the military academies.

#### It’s competitive –

#### They function within the academies while we completely abolish them.

#### We use an alternative actor.

#### Competes through net-benefits.

#### It solves the aff – we abolish the site from which militaristic scholarship, academics, and otherwise are produced.

#### Military academies are useless bastions of privilege, cost tons of money, and aren’t effective.

Scott Beauchamp, 2015

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-we-dont-need-west-point/2015/01/23/fa1e1488-a1ef-11e4-9f89-561284a573f8\_story.html?utm\_term=.01c6ea90a43b

Most Americans are familiar with the prestige that surrounds the United States military service academies. Various names and phrases, spoken like solemn incantations, attest to their sacrosanct status: the Point, the Long Gray Line, Annapolis, cadets. Their graduates constitute a who’s who of American greatness, including Ulysses Grant, Jimmy Carter, novelist James Salter and sci-fi writer Robert Heinlein, to name a few. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in a 1962 address at West Point, typified the veneration when he told the cadets that they were “the leaven which binds together the entire fabric of our national system of defense.” The service academies — the U.S. Military Academy for the Army (West Point), the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy — promise to educate and mold future officers charged with leading the enlisted members of the military. But they are not the hallowed arbiters of quality promised by their myths. Their traditions mask bloated government money-sucks that consistently underperform. They are centers of nepotism that turn below-average students into average officers. They are indulgences that taxpayers, who fund them, can no longer afford. **They’ve outlived their use, and it’s time to shut them down.** The most compelling and obvious argument is the financial one. It officially costs about $205,000 to produce a West Point graduate, although a 2003 Government Accountability Office study put the price tag at more than $300,000; officers at the Air Force and Naval academies are minted for $322,000 and $275,000, respectively. According to at least one measurement, that’s about four times as much as it costs to produce an officer through the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, which trains officers-to-be while they attend civilian colleges. One reason for the expense is that attendance at the academies is free for cadets. In fact, since they’re technically members of the armed forces, the students get paid for going to school. As Bruce Fleming, a heretical professor at the Naval Academy, wrote for Salon, they receive “a government-sponsored guarantee of a golden ticket to life: college at taxpayer expense with no student debts, the highest salary of any set of graduates, and guaranteed employment and . . . health benefits for at least five years, frequently well beyond.” Perhaps risking your life in patriotic service merits lavish treatment. During my own Army service, not having to worry about housing or medical care surely allowed me to concentrate on my duties as a soldier. But graduates of the academies, which cover every possible expense for four years, make up only 20 percent of officers serving in the military. The rest are from the ROTC and Officer Candidate School, which is for college grads and enlisted personnel who want an officer’s commission. Are those other officers less deserving of a “golden ticket”? No, because they are not merely more numerous — they are also equally (or more) effective as officers. No evidence shows that officers who attended civilian colleges, or any one of the U.S. Senior Military Colleges such as the Citadel, are lesser leaders than their service-academy colleagues. Tom Ricks, a Pulitzer Prize-winning defense journalist, put it succinctly: “After covering the U.S. military for nearly two decades, I’ve concluded that graduates of the service academies don’t stand out compared to other officers.” After all, perhaps the most preeminent Army leader in recent times, Colin Powell, is a product of the ROTC, not West Point.

#### The government is on the brink of shutdown – Trump just signed an extension – money is the issue at stake which the counterplan resolves. The impact is massive structural violence, governmental dysfunction, and more.

Tara Golshan and Dylan Matthews, 04/27/17

“What a federal government shutdown actually means” http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/4/25/15407326/government-shutdown-explained

Congress is barreling toward a government shutdown deadline. The House and Senate have until midnight on April 28 to pass a spending bill or the federal government will run out of money and close its doors. Despite controlling every lever of government, Republicans are somehow faced with the possibility that they can’t get the votes together to keep the government open. Added to that, the shutdown deadline happens to coincide with President Donald Trump’s 100-day mark, when journalists and historians assess what the White House has accomplished thus far. Needless to say, a shutdown would be a very bad look. For now, parties on the Hill are hasty to assure reporters that a shutdown is looking unlikely. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, made a move to avert a government shutdown late Wednesday night, introducing a [continuing resolution](http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20170424/BILLS-115hjres99ir.pdf) to provide one week of stop-gap funding, effectively extending the shutdown deadline to May 5, to buy Congress more time to negotiate a spending bill. The House and Senate have to pass the resolution before the spending deadline to keep the government open. House Speaker Paul Ryan told his conference it was his top priority to avoid a shutdown before everyone came back from recess. “A shutdown is not on the table,” a GOP aide close to the Appropriations Committee said. Another GOP congressional aide put the odds of government shutdown somewhere between 5 and 15 percent. But many areas of funding are still being negotiated across the 11 different appropriations bills, a Democratic aide said. If they can’t get a funding bill together by this Friday — or May 5, the possible new extended deadline — they’re facing a shutdown, potentially delaying key services and costing the government lots of money. What a government “shutdown” looks like So if Congress can’t get it together to pass some kind of appropriations bill, then what happens? The government shuts down, and lots of “nonessential” government activities suddenly cease. It’s not unusual for Congress to go to the brink of shutdown; it happened as recently as this past December, when Democrats threatened a shutdown if Republicans didn’t pass the Miners Protection Act, which would have guarded former miners’ health care and benefits. But it’s rare they actually don’t make the deadline. The government has [officially shut down 18 times](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/09/25/here-is-every-previous-government-shutdown-why-they-happened-and-how-they-ended/?utm_term=.b0d2018a8098) since the modern process that Congress uses to pass budget and spending bills took effect in 1976. The first six of those didn't actually affect the functioning of government at all. It wasn't until a set of opinions issued by [Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti](http://swampland.time.com/2013/10/09/the-man-who-created-the-government-shutdown/) in 1980 and ’81 that the government started treating "spending gaps" — periods when Congress has failed to allocate funds for the ongoing functions of government — as necessitating the full or partial shutdown of government agencies. But from the Reagan years onward, any period in which Congress failed to pass funding measures has meant that major chunks of the government stop operating. [Which parts depends from shutdown to shutdown](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/09/24/everything-you-need-to-know-about-a-government-shutdown/?utm_term=.f60a549914dd), but it generally excludes essential services without which the economy would grind to a halt and people would die. During shutdowns, federal employees are divided into “essential” and “nonessential” groups (the name was changed to “excepted” and “non-excepted” in 1995 to avoid hurting people’s feelings). Nonessential personnel receive furloughs: They're off work until the shutdown is resolved and stop receiving paychecks. In the October 2013 shutdown, [about 850,000 federal workers](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34680.pdf) received furloughs, or about 40 percent of all federal nonmilitary employees. After shutdowns, furloughed workers almost always receive retroactive payments covering their salaries during the shutdown. Essential workers also see their pay withheld — but they have to work anyway. The military, air traffic control, federal prisons, and Social Security and other benefit payments generally keep functioning as normal during shutdowns. But many other government functions are curtailed. In the [2013 shutdown](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/reports/impacts-and-costs-of-october-2013-federal-government-shutdown-report.pdf), the effects of the furloughs and other shutdowns in government activity included: **Tax refunds** totaling almost $4 billion **were delayed. The** [**Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/29/us-government-shutdown-services-affected) **went unfunded**. **Federal research activities at the National Institutes of Health** (which lost about three-quarters of its employees), **the National Science Foundation** (which lost 98 percent of its workforce), **and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (which lost two-thirds) **shut down nearly entirely; the CDC scaled back its monitoring of disease outbreaks. Environmental Protection Agency inspections halted at 1,200 locations**. The Food and Drug Administration delayed approval of drugs and medical devices. The national parks shut down, resulting in $500 million in lost consumer spending from tourism. Reviews of veterans’ disability applications slowed to a halt, with nearly 20,000 applications per week not being evaluated. In total, the Office on Management and Budget estimated that the shutdown cut GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2013 by 0.2 to 0.6 points, and resulted in 120,000 fewer jobs. So while shutdowns don’t result in seniors going without their retirement checks, or the military closing up shop, or airplanes crashing into each other in the sky, they do cause massive disruption in the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers and their families, and grind a lot of government agencies to a halt.